

Seattle, Streissguth Gardens, and Beyond

Reading will take you everywhere



Lake Union and Streissguth House, 2021

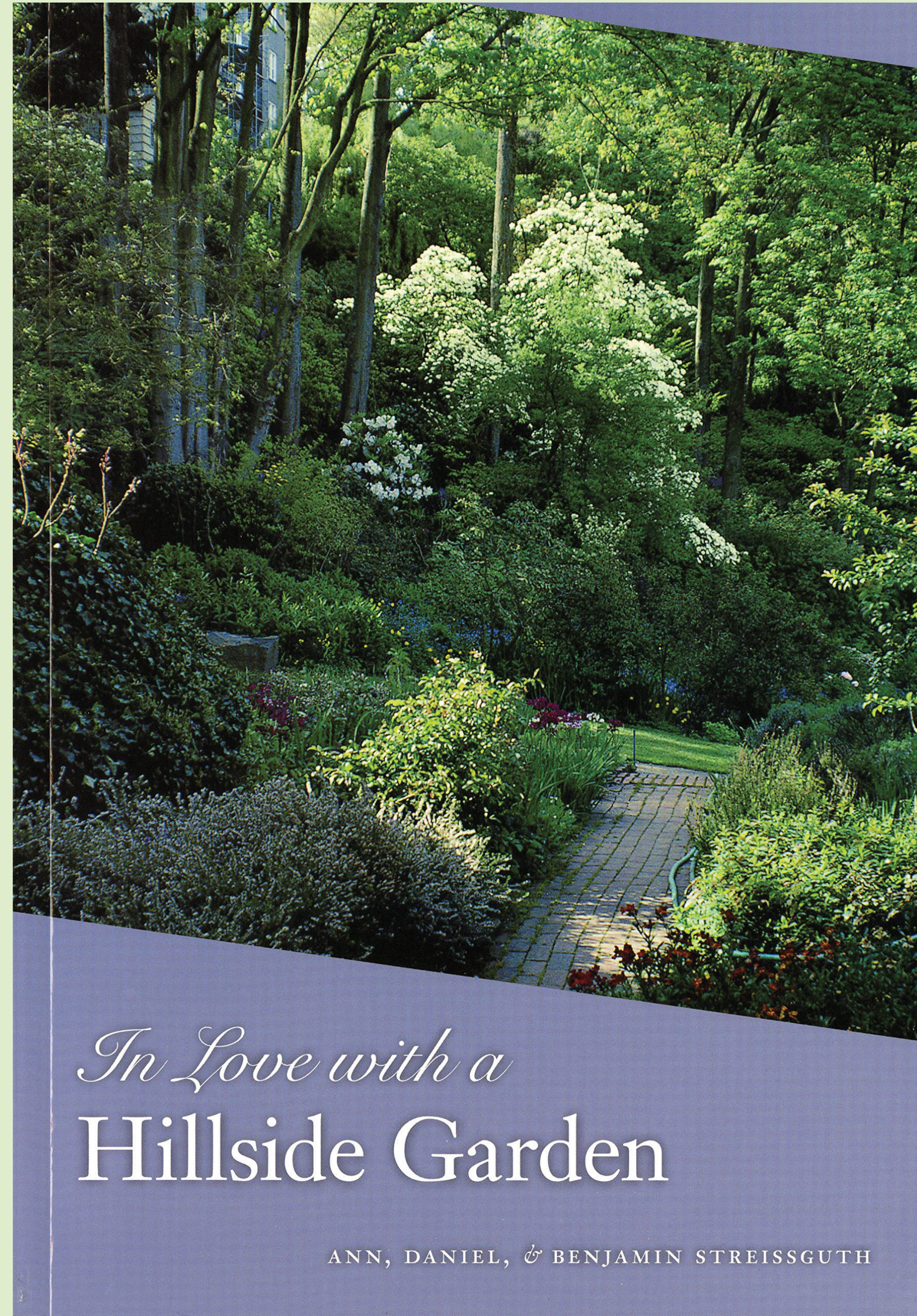


Primulas on th Slide Path, 2021



Daniel's Guiding Principles in Developing a Garden

- A good garden derives from, and must relate strongly to, its topography, orientation, climate, site, and to its surrounding bioculture.
- A residential garden should be a much-used and beautiful extension to the dwelling of which it is an integral part. It should yield a maximum of pleasure, challenge, discovery, and inspiration through the seasons of each year.
- A garden should grow incrementally, reflecting the evolving interests and needs of its users, in choices and arrangements of plant materials and garden elements, necessarily unfolding, changing, refining, and focusing over time.
- A good garden demands a continuing involvement and commitment by its users.
- Each plant, each element, in a good residential garden should have a substantial meaning to the gardeners. Ideally there's a story to be told about each part of the garden.
- A good garden and its house should be a gift to its neighbors. House and garden should integrate gracefully into their surrounds without excessive barriers, and though they should provide appropriate privacy to their users, they should invite interchange with neighbors and passers-by.



In Love with a Hillside Garden

ANN, DANIEL, & BENJAMIN STREISSGUTH

A link to Sicily



View of garden and Casa Cuseni



Daphne and Ben, 1972

In 1972, Dan and Ann stumbled upon a remarkable hillside garden in Taormina and formed a lifelong bond with its owner, Daphne Phelps.

Not only did the garden provide inspiration for Streissguth Gardens, but it provided a sort of postman's holiday for my folks. In their later years, they would go frequently to garden in their "other" garden, often for a month at a time.

Daphne and Ann wrote their memoirs together at Casa Cuseni - Daphne on her life and house; Ann on gardening with Daphne and gardening in Sicily. This shared experience would go onto inspire Ann, Dan and Ben to write their book.



Dan and Ann on their last trip to the garden, 2012

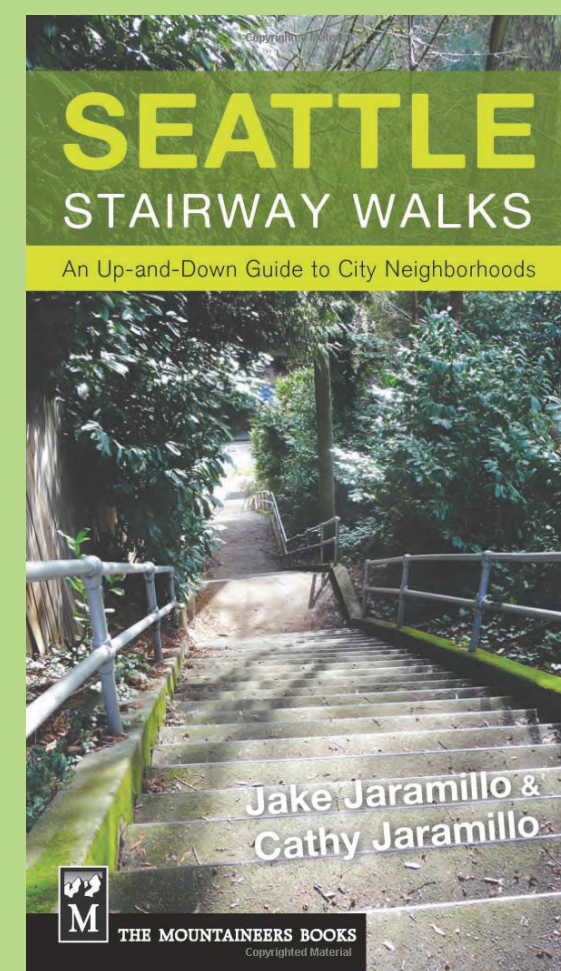
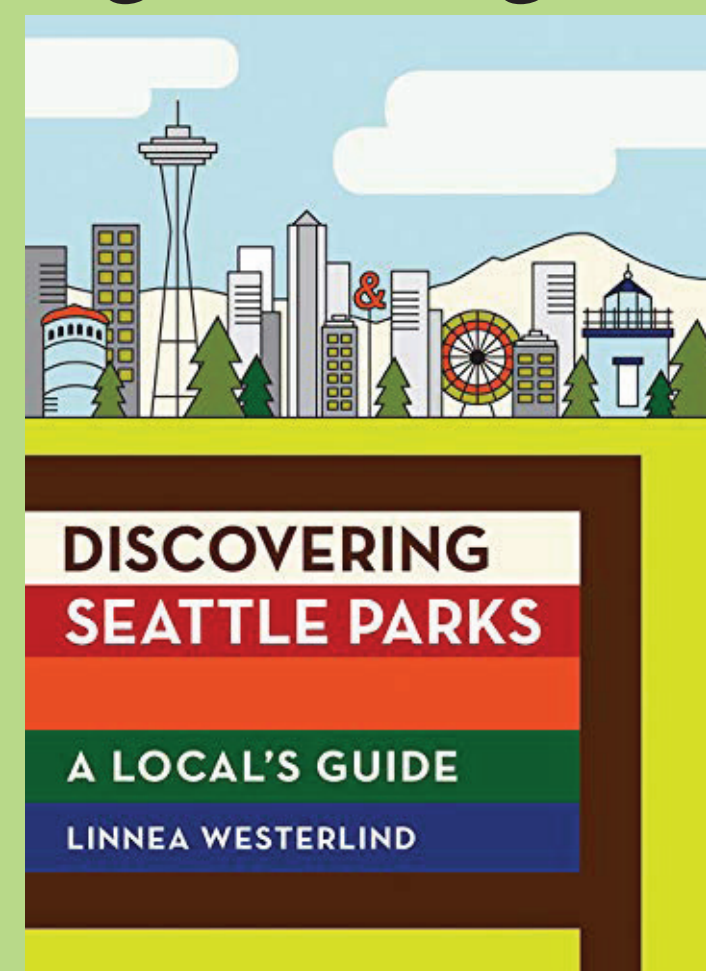
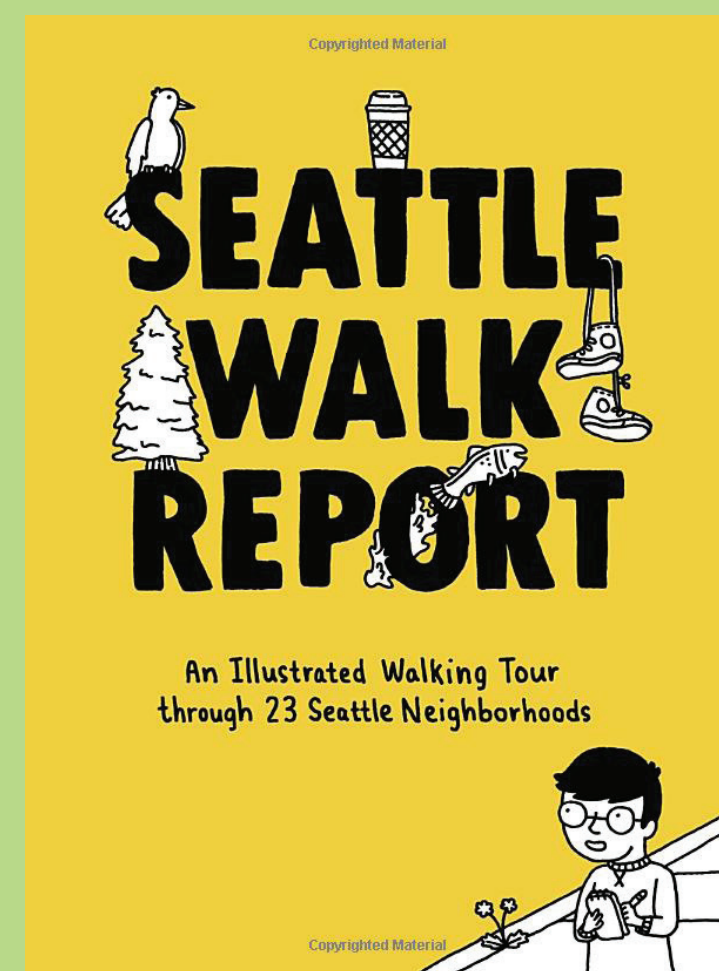
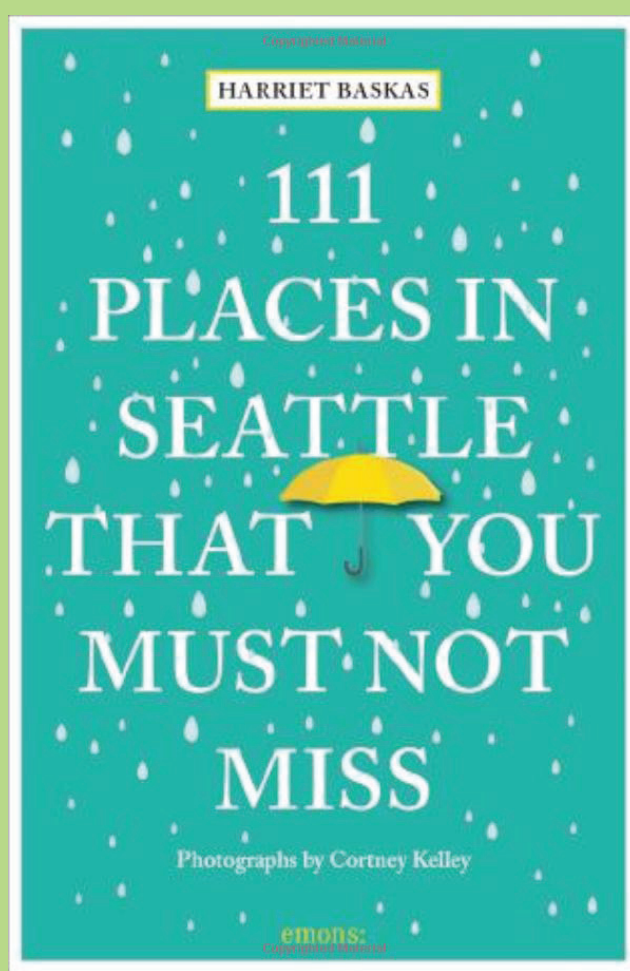
*Our friends are always astounded. "Why are you going to Sicily again? Haven't you already been there? ...To garden?? ...But, you **have** a garden in Seattle." It seemed impossible to explain. Yes, it is true we have a garden in Seattle, and, as with all gardens, it needs more work. It's not because we've run out of work in our Seattle garden that we go to Sicily - It's because we love "our" Sicilian garden as well. We love the experience of gardening the warm soil in March, of picking grapefruit out of the cineraria beds and eating them for breakfast. We love the way the spring sun shines through the ancient pergola, warming up the scent of jasmine. We like being startled by lizards instead of slugs.*

Excerpt from Ann's unpublished memoirs, 2000

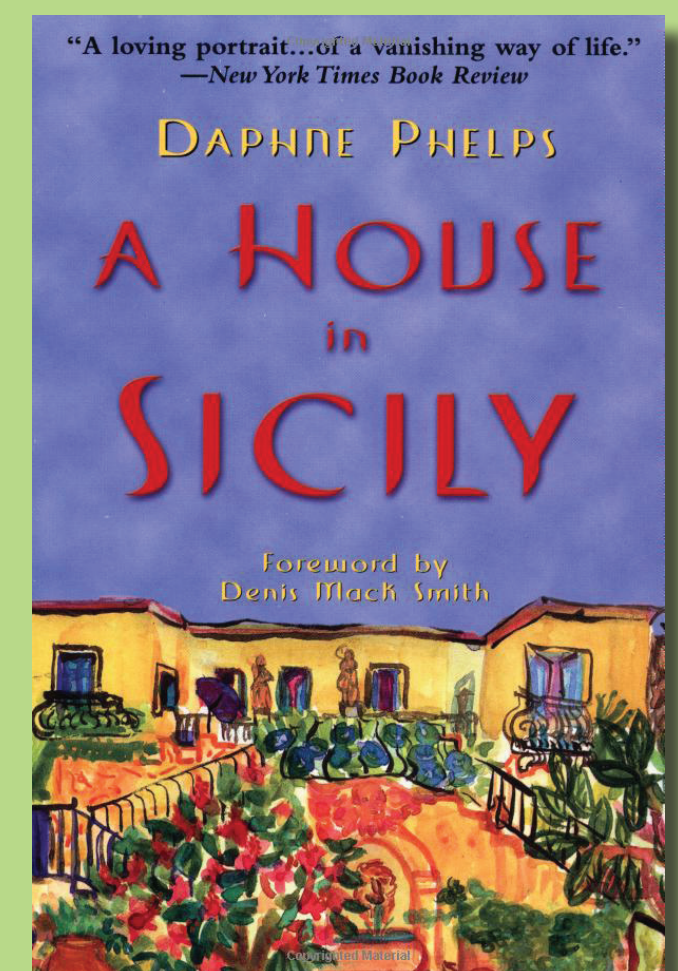
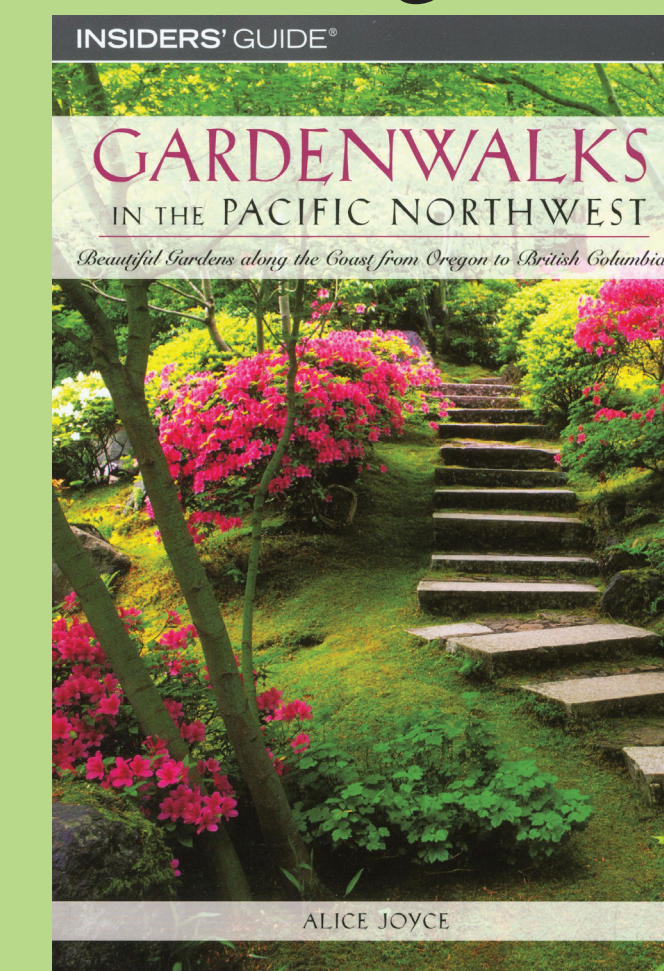
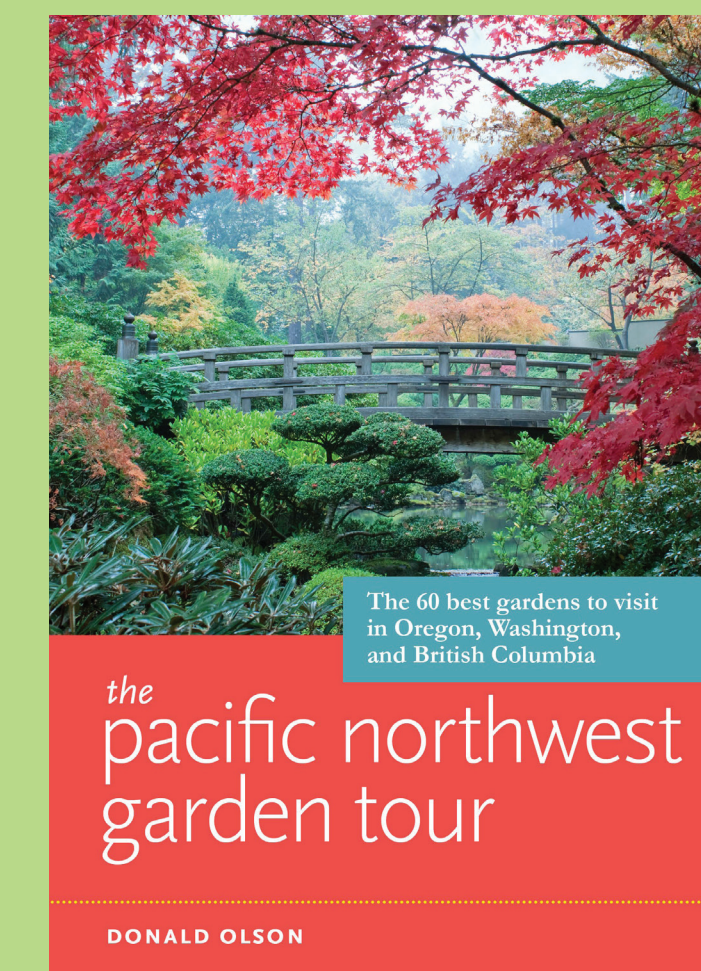


Casa Cuseni garden

Books listing Streissguth Gardens



Other notable garden books



Poster by Ben Streissguth and Jade Takashima